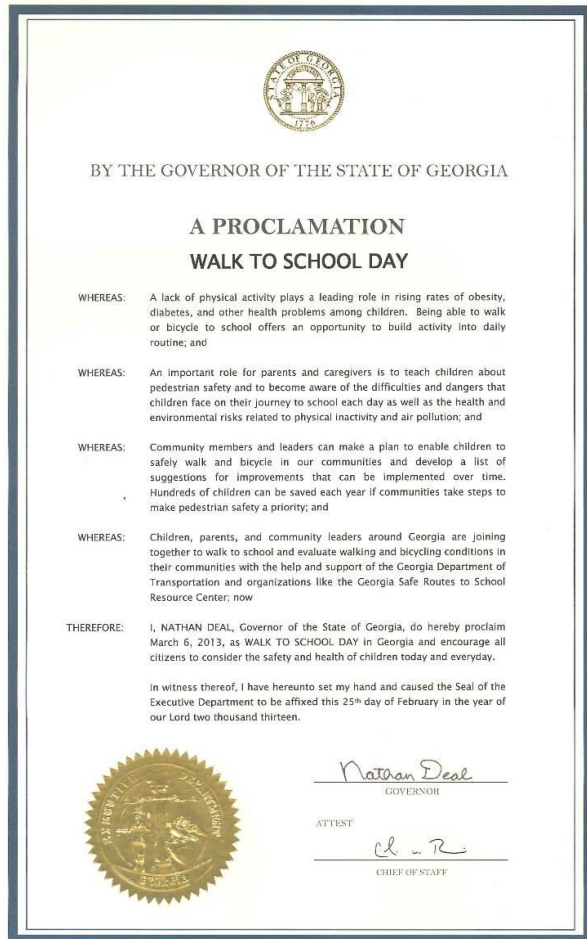




Progress and Activity Report - Georgia Safe Routes to School: Task Order 9 Winter 2013

This Progress Report reflects the seventh invoice for Task 9 for activities ending February 28th. Through this billing period, the Georgia Safe Routes to School Resource Center project team continued to provide services for schools and community stakeholders throughout the state.



Much of this period was focused on promoting the fourth annual Georgia Walk to School Day (gWalk) which will be held on March 6th. The Resource Center staff met with the Georgia Governor Nathan Deal at the end of February. The Governor issued a proclamation recognizing gWalk and the health, safety, and environmental benefits of gWalk events.



School Outreach Coordinators Alicia Hatcher (far left) and Nykia Burke (far right) pose with Governor Nathan Deal and Emmanuella Myrthil, Georgia's Safe Routes to School State Coordinator

Outreach Highlights

Clayton County Safe Kids Coalition (Friend)

Nykia has partnered closely with the Clayton County Safe Kids coalition to increase pedestrian safety education and awareness across the county. In June of 2012 the coalition broke ground on an environmental improvement project funded by a \$25,000 Fed Ex and Safe Kids grant. Nykia was invited to participate in the coalition committee tasked with developing the project. During this period, Nykia participated in the official ribbon cutting for the project. With the cooperation of the Clayton County transportation department, major improvements were made at a pedestrian crossing connecting a neighborhood and community recreation center. The Clayton County transportation department and Commissioner committed to extending the improvements to include nearby SRTS partner school, **Adamson Middle**

School. The planned pedestrian improvements will allow Adamson Middle School's students to more easily and safely choose walking and biking to school.



Safe Kids Clayton County Coalition members cut the ribbon for a \$25,000 grant project to improve pedestrian safety.

McLendon Elementary School, Dekalb County (New-Partner)

McLendon Elementary School was awarded a "Communities Putting Prevention to Work" grant from the Dekalb County Board of Health (BOH) to develop and implement Safe Routes to School programs. Nykia facilitated a meeting with the school's Principal, Champion, and Dekalb BOH representative to identify next steps. The group discussed findings from the previous month's walkability assessment, logistics of the grant funding, and developed a spring calendar. In addition to planning activities for Georgia Walk to School Day (gWalk,) the school will host an Earth Day Clean Commute and May Bike Rodeo. Nykia will continue to assist this school in developing an annual calendar and improving pedestrian/bicycle safety education programming.

Fernbank Elementary School, Dekalb County (Bronze Partner)

In the past, Fernbank Elementary has been a very active Partner school. However, when the SRTS Champion relocated, the program stalled. Nykia connected with the newest PTA chair to encourage renewed participation in SRTS programs. Although the school is scheduled to close for renovations at the end of this school year, and students will be relocated to another facility, the new PTA chair was excited to learn about the program. She recognized the long-term benefits of continued pedestrian safety education and is committed to developing the Fernbank program. Nykia will meet with the PTA chair and SRTS team again in February to plan Georgia Walk to School Day activities and develop an action plan for the new location.

Dunwoody Area Champion's Meeting, Dekalb County

Nykia facilitated the bi-annual Dunwoody Area Champion's Meeting during this period. Meeting attendees included champions from Austin, Chesnut Charter, Dunwoody, Kingsley Charter, and Vanderlyn Elementary Schools. Champions provided highlights from fall term and plans for Georgia Walk to School Day. Together with Nykia, the group developed plans for each school's gWalk event. In addition to encouraging student participation, the schools will participate in the second annual inter-school competition for the Dunwoody Golden shoe. The school with the highest percentage of walkers and bikers will be awarded a golden shoe plaque from the Resource Center at the monthly Dekalb County Parent's Council meeting. Principals from the losing school will wear the winning school's spirit wear for the day. Additionally, Nykia provided Resource Center updates a calendar of upcoming events, gWalk incentive items, and additional opportunities for program growth.

Laurel Ridge Elementary School, Dekalb County (Potential Partner)

The Laurel Ridge Elementary School PTA reached out to the Resource Center to learn more about SRTS programs due to concerns with safety in surrounding neighborhoods. Nykia met with the PTA and School Council presidents to present SRTS information and discuss opportunities for program development at Laurel Ridge. Currently, 50% of students live in nearby neighborhoods and many students walk to school daily. The elementary school also feeds into the neighborhood middle school. Therefore, these students will also have the opportunity to walk to school for many years. Nykia

encouraged school partnership and promoted Resource Center resources such as walk audit and travel plan assistance. She will continue to follow up with this great opportunity to expand SRTS programming across the territory.

**Fulton County Sheriff's Department
Pedestrian Safety Education Program Kick-Off, Oakley Elementary School**

Nykia was asked to serve in an advisory capacity for the Fulton County Sheriff's Department Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety Program. This program is the result of a \$27,900 grant from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety to address pedestrian safety. Fulton County had the highest rate of pedestrian crashes in the state of Georgia and the Sheriff's Department is committed to improving safety conditions, especially for students attending Fulton County Schools. In addition to providing expertise on building SRTS programs across Fulton County, Nykia provided SRTS resources including the NHTSA Child Pedestrian Safety Curriculum. After months of planning, the



Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety program kicked-off at Oakley Elementary School in Union City during this period. Approximately 150 students participated in a "Safe Street crossing" lesson based on the NHTSA Curriculum. Sheriff's Deputies walked students through the lesson and provided them with reflective safety vests to use on their next walk to or from school! www.fultonsheriff.org

White County & North Georgia Mountains Regional Commission

Alicia met with Tom O'Bryant and Chris Ernest of White County Government and Sarah McQuade of the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission to discuss creating a travel plan. A Bicycle-Pedestrian Plan was created for the city two years ago, and contributors would like to update it to include schools near downtown. Mr. O'Bryant has been in communication with representatives White County Schools. The school district is on board to work on the plan, focusing on J.P. Nix Primary School and White County Middle School. The next step is for this group to meet with representatives from the schools and plan a Georgia SRTS Course for the community.

Peebles Elementary School (Bronze-level Partner, Fayette County)

Peebles Elementary is an infrastructure award recipient and a new sidewalk was just completed over the summer of 2012 connecting the school to several large neighborhoods near the school. Alicia met with Principal Erin Robinson to introduce herself and learn more about the SRTS program at Peebles. Principal Robinson said that the school had their first Walk FROM School Day in October with 160 students participating. Parent volunteers led Walking School Buses to eight neighborhoods, and used golf carts as book bag valets for the kids. The school has a small number of regular walkers and bikers, but that number is expected to grow as the school holds more walking and biking events. The school is planning another walk to school day in late spring 2013.

Garrison Mill Elementary School (Silver-level Partner, Cobb County)

Alicia met with new School Champion, Fez Saige, in early January to discuss updates from the Georgia SRTS Resource Center, as well as learn what Garrison Mill plans to do with the program this year. Mrs. Saige said that the Walk Fit, a program in which all students walk the track in the morning and promotes exercise, is still happening every day. Because of the location of the school, only a handful of students can walk to school. Mrs. Saige plans to participate in gWalk in March by having all students participate in Walk Fit and teach pedestrian safety education in PE. Garrison Mill is an active Clean Air Schools participant and plans to celebrate their Clean Commute Week, which is the same week as gWalk.

Calhoun Elementary & Calhoun Primary (Calhoun City)

Alicia met with Calhoun Elementary and Calhoun Primary in Calhoun to discuss plans for Georgia Walk to School Day. Calhoun Elementary in 2010 and has a new School Champion, Jason Hawkins. Calhoun Primary signed on as a new Partner with Mona Smith serving as the School Champion. The schools share a campus and plan to hold events together. New sidewalks are to be completed by the summer of 2013 connecting two large neighborhoods to the school, so this is a perfect time to ramp up programs at both schools. SRTS activities for the remainder of the 2012-2013 school year include completing student travel tallies, participating in gWalk, and including pedestrian safety education in the classroom.

City of Royston

Alicia met with city officials from Royston as well as Sarah McQuade from the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission. The city and Royston Elementary applied for infrastructure funds in 2011, but were not awarded. They plan to apply again should funds become available, but want to build their SRTS noninfrastructure program. Royston Elementary is a neighborhood school and is located within a half-mile of a new recreation center used by the school and community. City and school officials would like sidewalks to connect the school with the recreation center. The next step is to plan a meeting with the school principal to discuss non-infrastructure plans for their SRTS program.

Safe Kids Cobb County (Friend)

Safe Kids Cobb County held their bi-monthly coalition meeting to discuss plans for the spring. Alicia gave an update to the group about Cobb County schools who are signed up for gWalk. Safe Kids will be holding bike rodeos at several partner schools in the coming months, and Alicia will be working with coalition leader Lisa Gardner to make plans at a school for National Bike to School Day in May.

SRTS Marketing

The website was updated during this period to highlight and promote Georgia Walk to School Day (gWalk.) The event is March 6, 2013. Materials were updated to provide a customizable press release and other materials for schools. A statewide press release was developed that included information about the Governor's Proclamation and event highlights. Additionally, the gWalk registration page went live. Schools can register gWalk events and share information on their plans for events. Constant Contact was utilized to disseminate emails to partners and other contacts. The emails encouraged registration, event ideas, and provided links to resources at www.saferoutesga.org. The Resource Center's Facebook page encourages followers to visit the program's website as well as other relevant SRTS webpages and information. Facebook was updated to promote gWalk as well as other national and state events. The Facebook Page has 54 likes. Additionally, two calls were made to the Hotline during this period.

The new Middle School Walk Audit Toolkit was added to the website. It was uploaded to the Tips and Tools section and an announcement was included on the homepage of the website. The Middle School Bike Audit Toolkit was developed based on the Walk Audit Toolkit. It will be added to the website upon internal review.

Looking Ahead

GA Walk to School Day is March 6th. The Resource Center staff will continue to promote and encourage schools to register and participate in walking and bicycling events. Additionally, the Saris Bicycle Contest, a national poster contest for fifth graders, is being coordinated by Georgia Bikes! in Georgia. Outreach staff will promote the opportunity to school partners and community groups. Finally, the second annual National Bike to School Day is scheduled for May 8th. The Resource Center will promote the event, update the website to include information, and encourage schools to go to www.walkbiketoschool.org to register.